

Name: _____

Business Ethics
Ethical Scandals in US History

Following is a list of ethical standards or people associated with potential ethical standards from American history. With a partner, research your topic using online sources, and using the following questions, prepare a one page paper – each member must write their own paper, and both must prepare a short presentation to share with the class. Your presentation should focus on the ethical scandal associated with your topic. Each partner is required to help with the research and to participate in the short presentation. Each partner is responsible for turning in their own paper. Presentations need not be longer than a couple minutes – just enough to educate your peers on your topic.

The topics include:

Matthew Lyon (1790's)

William "Boss" Tweed and Tammany Hall (1860's)

The attempt to impeach President Andrew Johnson (1860's)

The Congressional "salary grab" (1870's)

Credit Mobilier (1870's)

John D. Samborn (1870's)

William W. Belknap (1870's)

Teapot Dome Scandal (1920's)

Spiro Agnew (1970's)

Watergate (1970's)

Savings & Loan Crisis (1980's)

"Keating Five" (1980's)

Iran-Contra Arms Scandal (1980's)

House Bank Scandal (1990's)

House Post Office Scandal (1990's)

Questions to Consider:

1. Briefly describe the facts of the scandal. Who was involved, what did they do, why did they do it?
2. What did the people involved in the scandal do that was ethically wrong, or perceived to be ethically wrong?
3. What were some of the consequences of the scandal for the people involved in it and for the nation?
4. What role did the press or the news media play in how America found out about the potentially unethical actions?

Your topic will be assigned to you.

Due: End of class

Points: 20

